

of a year ago, brought about by complaints of P. J. Brennan, president of the Brennan Company, that there had been favoritism on the part of the engineer department in letting the asphalt contracts. It was at this time that the Commissioners began to look into the matter of the Brennan contracts.

Charles Fernald who, as a District employee, figured in the former investigation, was formerly employed by the Brennan Company as superintendent and he intimated that with the sanction of the District authorities he could disclose some interesting details regarding the alleged transactions. The District authorities, however, for the present are inclined to keep the details in full secret and Mr. Fernald, as a former District employee, is reticent to discuss the matter without such sanction.

Actual Shrinkage Small.

Until the Brennan company suggested, it is said, a change, the method of measuring asphalt at the plant and "in cart" had been in vogue in the District for twenty years. A former official of the District said today that the probable subsidence between plant and street would be one-half cubic foot in a load of about ten cubic feet. Such decrease would not be over 5 per cent.

Commissioner West said this morning that although the contract did not specify at what point the measurement should be made, it had always been understood that such measurement should take place at the plant. Mr. Brennan, who has long been in the contracting business here, is said to have been familiar with this method and to have never complained up to about a year ago. He has never put in a claim for the back allowance on the first contract.

Discussed by Commissioners. Commissioner West said today that, although the result of the investigation by the Engineer Department had not been brought officially to the attention of himself and Commissioner Macdonald, that they had discussed it informally. Ten days ago, he said, he heard of the affair and had started investigation of his own, and after a short while he had gained sufficient information to bring the matter to the attention of his colleagues, Commissioner Macdonald.

Upon the receipt of the official report Commissioner West said that he would be given opportunity to say anything he might desire. The question of whether the measurement should be made at the point where used. The former method, he thought, had always been used.

Mr. Fernald, who has been connected with the District and the Brennan company at different times, when asked for further information about the alleged "overpayment," said that Mr. Brennan could best furnish details of the transaction.

BARGAINS OFFERED BY CLOTHING STORE
Baltimore Firm Retires—Goods Ordered Come Here for Disposal.

Owing to the retirement from business of a large Baltimore firm, some bargains in suits and overcoats for men and boys are being offered by Elsmann Brothers, Seventh and E streets northwest.

The Baltimore concern had ordered a large quantity of clothing from Elsmann Brothers' factory, and upon the decision of the concern to retire, the goods were sent to Washington by Elsmann Brothers for their retail store.

Over 500 suits have thus been placed on sale at reduced prices.

HIGHWAYMEN PLAY WITH THESE POLICE
Take Away Chief's Paraphernalia and He Hopes City Department Will Get Them.

WHITING, Ind., Dec. 27.—Highwaymen have the joke on the police department today. They attacked Chief of Police Lawler last night and robbed him of \$50, his official "billy," his two official revolvers, and his official star.

This dramatic and daring climax to a series of holdups that have terrorized the Calumet region for the last few weeks have aroused the citizens to drastic action. Steps have been taken toward the formation of a vigilance committee. When the chief heard of this move he swore in eight special policemen and announced that the bandits would be captured by the Chicago police, as they had taken the 7:30 Pennsylvania train for Chicago at Roberts' sale.

GUESTS OF MINISTER.
All of the Methodist ministers of Washington will be the guests of Dr. Wilbur L. Davidson at his home, 1711 Lamont street, tomorrow at noon. The Rev. Dr. William Spurgeon, England, cousin of the famous Dr. C. H. Spurgeon, will be the guest of honor at this meeting, and will deliver an address. Lunch will be served to the ministers.

ALL ON THE SQUARE, DECLARES BRENNAN

"There is not a word of truth in it," said Patrick J. Brennan, president of the Brennan Construction Company, this afternoon, when told of the disclosures of the alleged holding up of his payments, and of the allegation that he has received about \$15,000 too much from the District for the paving work he has done in the last three and one-half years.

"One hundred and fifteen thousand dollars? I wish I had the money. I have nothing whatever to do with the measurements of the asphalt. There never was any change made that I know of."

"If there had been any such thing as you assert, wouldn't the whole Engineer Department be rotten?"

"They have been trying to get me ever since the trouble last spring."

Mr. Brennan was cool and a bit worried apparently by the charges. This is his explanation of the way in which

a change in the measurement of asphalt was made.

"In 1904," he said, "we put in a new plant. The engineer commissioner, Colonel Hiddle, through Major Morrow, appointed a commission consisting of Engineer of Highways Hunt, A. W. Dow, Inspector of asphalt and cement T. C. J. Bailey, Jr., and Mr. Charles Fernald, all employees of the District to visit the plant and ascertain weights, measures, and cubic contents of every measure and paraphernalia connected therewith."

"After the inspectors appointed by the Engineer Commissioner and Major Morrow determined the measurement, they found we were underpaid and went back for two or more months and paid us more than \$1,000. The measurements then made were absolutely binding, and subsequent computations were based thereon."

Mr. Brennan said that since inspectors are at his plant all the time, he could not possibly have done anything out of the way without the collusion of the entire department.

President-elect Taft's announcement of a program and policy for dealing with the problems of interstate commerce and transportation, along entirely new lines, has aroused far greater interest among public men than any other legislative development of the winter, aside from the preliminaries to tariff discussion.

"This is a fine illustration," said a Western Senator today, "of the methods we may expect from Mr. Taft. He will devise his own policies, and then he will, to a very large extent, work out his own measures for carrying those policies into effect. In that regard he will be like McKinley, who was a constructionist; he knew both generally and specifically, what he wanted; he was a man for details. Mr. Roosevelt was a man for generalization, but not for details of construction."

There is already animated discussion of the proposal of Mr. Taft to make the interstate commission more distinctive by a judicial body and to turn its administrative functions over to the Department of Commerce and Labor. It is apparent that the plan will enjoy large and influential support, largely by reason of the fact that the Congress has loaded up the interstate commission with a multitude of minor duties, aside from its great and essential ones, and has compelled it to spend its time on matters of minor moment. It has investigated, under orders of Congress, pretty much everything under the sun: elevators, express companies, railroad consolidations, financial operations, etc.; it has been made the public utility board of Washington so far as concerns the city railways, and now there is pending to place the telephone business under its charge. Later there will be a proposal to give the commission general control over the telegraph and telephone business of interstate character throughout the country.

Too Much Work.
Congress has loaded up the commission with a hodgepodge of duties more or less unrelated and inappropriate to its general functions, and then complained because the commission hadn't had time to do the big tasks wanted of it. The feeling has been growing for two years that something would sooner or later have to be done to change this situation. The ancient enemies of the commission plan of regulation have lost no opportunity to point out defects, and Mr. Taft's announcement of his sympathy with the critics is certain to start a renewed campaign of opposition and criticism of present conditions.

There is already inquiry as to who will become the spokesman of the Administration in the two houses of Congress, in carrying forward these measures. The suggestion was ventured today by a Senator who has recently visited Mr. Taft, that when this bill comes into Congress it will have something the status of a Government proposal in the English commons; it will come from the pen of President Taft, will be known as his bill, and the question of who introduces it will be rather of minor importance. At the same time, it will have a good deal of support simply because of its status as an Administration measure.

Much interest is taken in commission circles in the opinions of Dr. Henry C. Adams, statistician and economist to the commission, concerning the Taft proposals. Dr. Adams will come to Washington in a few days to remain the rest of the winter; and it is expected that whenever legislation is actually in process of formulation, his views will be much in demand by the committees of Congress, and by the President as well. Dr. Adams, like Chairman Knapp, is strongly of the belief that the judicial functions of the commission

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A Legislative Campaign.
Before the interstate commission will be radically reorganized in scheme and scope, there will be a long and earnest consideration by Congress. Indeed, it is likely that Mr. Taft, if he presses his suggestions, will start a legislative campaign quite as long and arduous as was that which ended in the Hepburn bill's passage.

Mr. Taft's declaration for a reorganization of the plan of dealing with this set of questions has served to bring the interstate commission back to a foremost rank in public attention. Since the Hepburn law passed the opponents of Government intervention have had things pretty much their own way. On the plea of giving the new law a chance and waiting to see what it will do, what virtues and what defects it will develop, efforts at amendment and extension of powers have been uniformly discouraged. Last session, indeed, the House organization actually tried desperately to nullify the provisions of Section 2 of that act by refusing appropriation for carrying into effect the uniform accounting and inspection of accounts features. President Roosevelt had a hand-to-hand contest with the House leadership before he won that fight; and there is no question that one of his serious grievances against the House was based on that fight.

MRS. RIVES' HURTS MAY NOT BE FATAL
Condition of Aged Woman Who Fell Down Elevator Shaft Improving.

The condition of Mrs. M. G. Rives, eighty-five years of age, who had a narrow escape from death when she fell a distance of thirty-five feet down an elevator shaft at her home, 172 I street northwest, was slightly improved this morning and hope is entertained for her recovery.

Mrs. Rives' son, Dr. William C. Rives, of 1230 Rhode Island avenue northwest, who is attending her, said today that his mother has sustained no broken bones, although it is feared she is internally injured.

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Marked Increase in Tendency to Evade Military Service Shown by Report.

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Literature concerning the project is also being sent out today by a commission, and efforts are being made to interest citizens of Ohio in the movement.

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RADICAL CHANGES BY TAFT EXPECTED

New Interstate Commerce Commission Policy Interests Public Men.

WILL BE MADE JUDICIAL BODY
Proposes to Turn Administrative Function to Commerce and Labor Department.

By J. C. WELLIVER.

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TAFT COULDN'T LAND RED HAT FOR IRELAND

Friends of President-Elect Point Out Difficulties in Way of Elevation of Prelate, Due to Differences With Various Organizations of the Clergy.

Officials of the State Department do not credit the published report that Archbishop Ireland can be raised to the eminence of a cardinalship if President-elect Taft will request such action by the Vatican at Rome.

Friends of Mr. Taft in Washington not only confidently say he will make no such request, but it is a matter with which he has no official connection, but it is further stated that the request, even if made, would not be successful.

Mr. Taft's friends and men high in the State Department point out that Ireland has incurred the lasting enmity of the "regular clergy," that part of the Catholic clergy which is governed by special rules, including the monastic organizations.

At the Vatican he is opposed by the Dominicans, the Augustinians, the Benedictines, and certain elements of the Jesuits. He aroused their dislike by a sermon he preached some years ago, in which he accused the statement that bishops were made before monks, and in which there was a note of what the regular clergy thought to be hostility to them. These monastic orders are, of course, the bone and sinew of the church and they have their most powerful representatives at the Vatican all the time.

Mr. Taft has visited the Vatican, and, according to his friends, he is familiar enough with the situation to keep out of it. It is said here that Mr. Taft, in common with others familiar with the situation, has never expressed the belief in recent years that Ireland would be made a cardinal.

ARMED MEN MAKE CAMP A VOLCANO
Strike Situation Critical, With Hundreds of Mountaineers, Soldiers, and Deputies.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 27.—The situation at Stearns, Whitley county, the little mining town where riots occurred on Christmas Day between striking miners and deputy United States marshals, resulting in the death of six men, is described in telephone messages today as resembling a volcano, ready to burst into flames at any moment.

The town is full of armed mountaineers, probably 200 crowding into its narrow streets. Holding them in check are less than 100 youthful soldiers. These are supported by ten deputy United States marshals, who are acting in co-operation with the State troops.

The miners appear to regard the soldiers with deadly hatred. They are experienced troops, having seen duty during the night riot at Stearns. It is expected a battery of State artillery will be sent to Stearns, and if necessary hills about the camp will be shelled to run Berry Simpson and his gang of outlaws from cover.

Gets Mountaineer Deputies.
Sheriff J. N. Crawley this morning swore in as special deputies twenty-five mountaineers, who know every foot of ground in Whitley county. These were taken on horseback to Stearns, and their aid proffered to soldiers and marshals.

On their way to Stearns these special deputies searched every nook and cranny of ravines and mountains along their way for Simpson and his gang, but no trace was found. Simpson and his men are alleged to be the cause of the whole trouble. They are being guarded by henchmen. This afternoon a posse of over 100 men, including soldiers, United States marshals and special deputies, will leave Stearns for the hill districts, bent on securing Simpson. If he is not found today, another heavy detachment will be sent tomorrow, and then artillery will probably be asked.

Several shots were heard during the night by sentinels on duty at Stearns, and it is supposed Simpson and his followers were signaling to their men in town. No one was hurt during the night, but people in town covered in their homes.

It is now regarded as certain that Marshal Ryan, who was wounded Christmas Day, and who became separated from his companions, has been found and kept by miners. Ryan does not well have become lost. Labor officials fear the effect of this rioting on the recent decision of Judge Wright in ordering Gompers, Mitchell, and Morrison to jail for contempt of court.

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SON'S ARREST FILLS HER CUP OF SORROW

Mothers of Alleged Forger Victim of Series of Misfortunes.

Grief-stricken over the long series of misfortunes that had touched all but one of her family, Mrs. Annie Oliver fainted at her home, 414 Four-and-half street southwest, this morning when the police notified her that her remaining son, Merritt Oliver, fourteen years old, whose absence all last night had made the mother frantic, was in jail charged with forging a check.

Just before the police arrived, the mother's cup of bitterness was filled by the news that her other son must go to Emergency Hospital for an operation to remove an abscess. She herself is just convalescing from a six weeks' illness from typhoid fever, and her daughter is still in the hospital with the same disease. Her husband died within a year and today the one last afflicted child, who is attending school, was arrested for passing alleged bogus checks.

The boy accuses Harry C. Owens, Harry Friedly, and Charles Hurley with furnishing him the checks and inducing him to pass them. Three bogus checks, each for \$7.50, have been reported, and it is thought the others are in circulation. The boy and the three men are on the police blotter for investigation, but the police say they have evidence to support serious charges.

MOVING PICTURES TO UNROLL AGAIN
NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Owing to the blanket injunctions obtained from Justice Daynor late last night, the proprietors of moving picture shows throughout the Greater City met with no interference today. The same crowds that usually make the sidewalks profitable passed in and out undisturbed all day. Although the moving picture shows were temporarily protected by the injunctions, the theaters are expected to trouble tonight when they give their shows. As the case stands now, the police will have to determine what constitutes a vaudeville show. The theatrical managers are almost willing to wager that if some of their artists appear in a low necked gown to sing a song the wise police may decide that she is in costume and make an arrest.

Died
SAUSAR—On Saturday, December 26, 1908, at 2:20 p. m., GEORGE, beloved husband of Lydia Sausar.

FUNERAL Tuesday at Commodore Chapel 12, William Lee street, Pennsylvania avenue northwest, Interment at Annapolis, Maryland. (Baltimore and Annapolis, Md., papers please copy.)

DEVILIN—Suddenly, on Saturday, December 26, 1908, at his residence, 404 Sixth street northwest, EDWARD DEVILIN, beloved husband of Emilie Devlin.

FUNERAL Tuesday afternoon, private.

BREDEKAMP—On Saturday, December 26, 1908, at 2 o'clock a. m., at her residence, as Four-and-a-half street southwest, after a short illness, Mrs. ELIZABETH BREDEKAMP, beloved wife of Herman B. Bredekamp, aged seventy-six years.

FULLER—On Friday, December 25, 1908, CHAS. J. FULLER, in his thirty-eighth year.

MAHONEY—On Saturday, December 26, 1908, at 8:25 p. m., at her residence, 1114 First street northwest, Mrs. ELIZABETH MAHONEY, beloved mother of Timothy J. O'Connell and James J. Mahoney.

PATTISON—On Friday, December 25, 1908, at the residence of his parents, 625 A street northeast, JAMES FLINT, the only and beloved son of Mary J. and J. J. Pattison.

SCOTT—On Tuesday, December 22, 1908, at 10 o'clock p. m., REMUS C. SCOTT.

SHAWGLER—On Friday, December 25, 1908, JULIANA SHAWGLER, aged seventy-one years.

BROWN—On Saturday, December 26, 1908, at 10 a. m., after a long illness, JAMES BROWN, the beloved husband of Charlotte Brown, at 706 Georgia avenue.

FUNERAL Monday, December 28, from the Church of the Nativity, at 10 a. m., where requiem high mass will be sung. Friends and relatives invited to attend. 6025-2.

UNDERTAKERS.
J. WILLIAM LEE, UNDERTAKER AND LIVERY, 625 Pa. Ave. N. W., Washington, D. C. Telephone Main 126.

CEMENT BURIAL VAULTS.
WATERPROOF; airtight; everlasting; for individual internments; for sale by undertakers. WASHINGTON CEMENT VAULT CO., ROOM 203 Maryland building. Phone Main 6622. 3712-Su-tu-th-fr.

FUNERAL DESIGNS.
FUNERAL DESIGNS of every description—moderately priced. GUDE.

An Expression of Thanks and Good Wishes

And now that 1908 is about to pass into history, I desire to take this opportunity to express to my customers and friends my grateful appreciation of their patronage during the past year, and to give expression to the wish that 1909 may hold in store for one and all the fullness of prosperity and happiness.

F. H. KRAMER, the Florist
916 F Street 722 Ninth Street Center Market
GREENHOUSES = = = = = **ANACOSTIA**